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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 SMI-01 NSF-01 /012 W
---------- 049394
R 241014Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2234
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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FOR AF/E-COOTE FROM MANHARD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, MP
SUBJ: STRAUSS EXPEDITION TO ST. BRANDON

1. FOR SOME TIME I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ASSIST LEWIS STRAUSS (SON OF LATE ADMIRAL STRAUSS), 1250 CONNECTICUT AVE., WASHINGTON D.C., IN HIS PLANS TO ARRANGE SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION (NAMELY REEF ECOLOGY) TO ST. BRANDON AREA OF CARGADOS CARAJOS SHOALS WITH PARTICIPATION OF SMITHSONIAN AND POSSIBLY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC THIS NOVEMBER OF DECEMBER. SOME MAURITIANS WE HAVE CONTACTED HAVE PROBABLY JUMPED TO CONCLUSION, IN THEIR TYPICAL FASHION, THAT THIS IS SOME SORT OF JAMES BOND OPERATION. FOR WHATEVER REASON, WE ARE GETTING MOSTLY EVASION AND BUCK-PASSING FROM GOM OFFICIALS RE CHARTER OF RESEARCH VESSEL "INVESTIGATOR" WHICH IS QUITE SUITABLE AND OWNED BY FISHERIES MINISTERY.

2. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS TO STRAUSS:

(A) HE WRITE DIRECTLY OR THROUGH ME TO PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINING PURPOSE, DESIRED TIME PERIOD AND AREA OF EXPEDITION, POINTING OUT POTENTION SCIENTIFIC AND PUBLIC RELATIONS VALUE TO MAURITIUS, MENTIONING SUITABILITY OF INVESTIGATOR (STRAUSS HAS BLUEPRINT OF VESSEL), AND SPECIFYING NEED FOR SPECIAL CUSTOMS CLEARANCES AND FACILITIES FOR SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, COLLECTED SPECIMENS, ETC.

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KB) HE CONTACT LINDBLAD TRAVEL INC., NEW YORK RE

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AVAILABILITY AND SUITABILITY OF YACHT DWYN WEN BASED IN SEYCHELLES, AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO INVESTIGATOR. I WILL AIR POUCH FULL DESCRIPTION TO STRAUSS THIS WEEK.

(C) WE HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED OF TWO ADDITIONAL LARGE FISHING VESSELS EITHER OF WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN PORT LOUIS, BUT PERHAPS AT EXORBITANT RATES. FULL INFORMATION ON THEM WILL BE SENT STRAUSS SOONEST.

(D) SPRINGER (SMITHSONIAN CURATOR OF FISHES) LETTER WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH GOM NEXT WEEK. STRAUSS AND SPRINGER SHOULD INVESTIGATE FARRELL OR MOORE-MACCORMACK LINES FROM EAST COAST TO DURBAN FOR SHIPMENT OF GEAR; TRANSHIPMENT FROM DURBAN COULD THEN FOLLOW. ANY OTHER WAY BY SURFACE WOULD PROBABLY TAKE CLOSE TO ETERNITY. DECON UPON RECEIPT.
BOWDLER

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